



December 23, 2005

## **Bank robber is sentenced to 46 months in prison**

A federal judge today sentenced **John Choiniere**, 27, of Warwick, to 46 months in prison for a robbery he committed at a Citizens Bank branch in Warwick in February.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In May, Choiniere pleaded guilty to bank robbery. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey said that the government could prove that, on February 3, Choiniere went into the Citizens Bank at 278 Strawberry Fields Road and handed a teller a note demanding money. He claimed that he had a bomb. The teller gave him \$1,002 and he fled.

Shortly after the robbery, Warwick Police found in a nearby dumpster clothing matching that which witnesses said the robber had been wearing. Nearby the dumpster, a witness found a wallet with Choiniere's identification in it.

Police arrested Choiniere on February 12, when they found him hiding in a closet in a house in Cranston.

**Warwick Police, Cranston Police** and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the robbery. Assistant U.S. Attorney Leavey prosecuted it as part of Project Bank Safe, a federal initiative targeting bank robberies in which notes are used.

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